

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mazza opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

“Sunshine Law” Announcement: Adequate notice of this public meeting has been published in the Hunterdon County Democrat issue of November 15, 2007 and Courier News issue of November 14, 2007; posted on the public bulletin board and on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

FLAG SALUTE**ROLL CALL - Present:**

Matt Severino, Lisa Nargi, Patricia Dziubek, Frank Mazza.

Absent:

Rob Haynes

Others Present:

J. Peter Jost, Esq., Attorney, Grace Brennan, CFO, Grace Kocher, Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular and Executive Session 1 and 2 Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2007

Due to discrepancy in the date of the minutes of November 7, 2007, they were tabled until December 5, 2007 meeting.

VISITORS - none

At this time, a motion was made by Mrs. Nargi to appoint Grace Kocher, Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Secretary as a Temporary Clerk of the Township of Union. Mrs. Dziubek seconded. Vote – Ayes: Severino, Mrs. Nargi, Mrs. Dziubek, Mr. Mazza. Motion Carried.

REPORTS RECEIVED

- a. Road Dept.- week ending 11/02/07; 11/19/07
b. Municipal Court – October 2007

CORRESPONDENCEMrs. Dziubek mentioned the following:

- Letter from Verizon Wireless requesting information on telecommunication facilities and municipal ordinances regarding same. Attorney Jost will provide necessary information.
- Letter of Certification/Milligan Farm COAH Townhouses from the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District
- Current status and Review Report on COAH from Mr. Hintz’ office – would like to discuss at the next Committee Meeting.

TAKEN OUT OF AGENDA ORDER**Committee Report**Mayor Mazza mentioned the following:

- Letter from Theodore Frankenbach at 301 Hidden Meadow regarding rail quiet zones. Environmental Commission will investigate the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Pause, Clinton Twp. resident, asked if he could comment on the Sign Ordinance. Attorney Jost said there is a Public Hearing scheduled tonight for comments.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2nd reading

ORDINANCE # 2007-9

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 30-8, SIGNS, IN THE LAND USE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AND REPEALING THE CURRENT PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 30-8, SIGNS, IN THE LAND USE CODE, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mrs. Dziubek made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2007-9. Mr. Severino seconded the motion. Vote – Ayes: Mr. Severino, Mrs. Nargi, Mrs. Dziubek, Mr. Mazza. Motion Carried.

Mr. Brinton, Special Counsel for Coastal Outdoor Advertising Group, LLC litigation pointed out few typing errors and gave a brief overview of the ordinance. He also cited some legal cases related to the Township's current litigation with Coastal Outdoor Advertising Group, LLC.

Attorney Jost stated for the record that all Committee members have received copies of all mentioned court cases and have considered them in correlation with current lawsuit.

Mr. Brinton emphasized the importance of the severability clause.

At this time, Mr. Severino left the meeting room for few minutes.

Mr. Jost read a letter from Rob Haynes, absent at this meeting, in support of adopting Sign Ordinance #2007-9.

Questions/Comments – Jim Pauze, 19 Cokesbury-Califon Rd., Clinton Twp. spoke against putting up billboards.

Mr. Brinton stated that under the existing sign ordinance, commercial billboards are prohibited and they will be prohibited under the new ordinance. He also explained signage along Hwy. #78, which is regulated by Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

There being no further questions/comments, Mrs. Dziubek made a motion to close the public hearing. Mrs. Nargi seconded the motion. Vote – Ayes: Mr. Severino, Mrs. Nargi, Mrs. Dziubek, Mr. Mazza. Motion Carried.

Mr. Severino made a motion to adopt Ord. #2007-9 on 2nd reading. Mrs. Nargi seconded the motion. Vote – Ayes: Mr. Severino, Mrs. Nargi, Mrs. Dziubek, Mr. Mazza. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Motion to Approve:** Contract with Fitting & Zidd Internet Marketing agency to manage Union Township website

Mayor Mazza stepped out of the meeting room for a very short time.

Briefly discussed was the contract with Fitting & Zidd.

Mrs. Nargi made a motion to extend temporarily the contract with Fitting & Zidd until January 2, 2008. Mrs. Dziubek seconded. Vote – Ayes: Mr. Severino, Mrs. Nargi, Mrs. Dziubek, Mr. Mazza. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. The following resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2007-159
GOVERNING BODY RESOLUTION REQUESTING SCENIC BYWAY DESIGNATION
OF INTERSTATE 78 THROUGH THE ENTIRETY OF TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY

Whereas, Hunterdon County has a rural character that is unique to the central part of New Jersey;

Whereas, Hunterdon County has maintained large areas of undeveloped and agricultural land throughout the County that significantly contributes to its rural character and residential quality of life;

Whereas, the open space in Hunterdon County is scenic and includes two state reservoirs, Spruce Run and Round Valley, and consists largely of picturesque rolling hills spotted with, often times historic, farm buildings and hamlets;

Whereas, Interstate 78 through Hunterdon County allows approximately 87,000 motorists daily to experience this rural character from the viewsheds along the corridor which provide visibility for miles;

Whereas, the scenic qualities of Interstate 78 in Hunterdon County contribute toward a pleasant driving experience along Interstate 78;

Whereas, Township of Union is located in Hunterdon County and hosts approximately four miles of Interstate 78;

Whereas, the viewsheds in Township of Union along Interstate 78 greatly contributes to the overall scenic quality of Interstate 78 in Hunterdon County;

Whereas, Township of Union along Interstate 78 consists of viewsheds of serene rolling hills of farmland and forest that exemplify the rural and traditional character of Union Township;

Whereas, Township of Union wishes to retain these scenic qualities in order to maintain the quality of life for the Township of Union residents and maintain a pleasant driving experience for motorists along Interstate 78;

Whereas, the Township of Union Governing Body finds that designation of Interstate 78 as a Scenic Byway through the entirety of the municipality will help Township of Union achieve its goals of maintaining quality of life for its residents and maintaining a pleasant driving experience for motorists along Interstate 78;

Whereas, the Township of Union Governing Body wishes to proceed with a scenic byways designation that encompasses all Hunterdon County municipalities which host Interstate 78;

Now Therefore It Be Resolved, that the Township of Union Governing Body requests that the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation designate Interstate 78 through Township of Union a scenic byway because of its scenic and natural characteristics;

Be It Further Resolved, that the Township of Union Governing Body requests that one or more State Assemblymen and/or Senators representing Hunterdon County sponsor the nomination of Township of Union as well as the other Hunterdon County municipalities seeking the Scenic Byway Designation for Interstate 78;

Be It Further Resolved, that Township of Union will work with all municipalities who also have a portion of Interstate 78 designated as a Scenic Byway to create a Corridor Management Plan in accordance with the specifications of the New Jersey Scenic Byway's Program within five years.

Mrs. Dziubek made a motion to adopt above resolution. Mrs. Nargi seconded the motion. Vote – Ayes: Mr. Severino, Mrs. Nargi, Mrs. Dziubek, Mr. Mazza. Motion Carried.

- b. The following resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2007-160

**PARIS Grants Program
Township of Union Municipality for
Shared Services with County**

Be it resolved by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, THAT:

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has launched its pioneering Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Support (PARIS) grant program to meet the strategic records management, preservation, and storage needs of county and municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, a top priority of the PARIS grants program is to achieve efficiencies of cost and operation through shared services and to create a service structure for municipalities that do not have the resources to create one for themselves; and

WHEREAS, in the 2008-09 grant cycle, priority funding will be given to county projects to perform municipal inventories, needs assessments and strategic plans for all of their municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Union desires to collaborate with the Hunterdon County in the performance PARIS GRANT 2008/2009; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Union is acknowledging that their eligible funding of **\$50,000.00** will be leveraged with Hunterdon County; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Union is acknowledging that Hunterdon County would be both the lead agency and the applicant for such a proposal; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of Union, that the Township of Union does support and commit to cooperation and participation in the PARIS grant for the purposes set forth above, and to execute and deliver all documents required incident thereto.

ADOPTED by the Township Committee of Township of Union at a meeting held on November 28, 2007.

Mrs. Dziubek made a motion to adopt above resolution. Mrs. Nargi seconded the motion. Vote – Ayes: Mr. Severino, Mrs. Nargi, Mrs. Dziubek, Mr. Mazza. Motion Carried.

NEW ORDINANCE – 1ST Reading – none at this time

REPORTS

- a. **Engineer's Report** – none due to absence

- b. **Attorney's Report** – Mr. Jost mentioned the following:

- On Tuesday, attended meeting with County Freeholders along with the Mayor Mazza, Mr. Severino, Mrs. Dziubek, and Robert Nargi. Mr. Jost said Freeholders voted in support of the concept of cost sharing with the Township for Milligan property up to one and a half million dollars. The matter will be considered again at the next Hunterdon County Freeholders meeting, Mr. Jost added.

TAKEN OUT OF AGENDA ORDER

EXECUTIVE SESSION –Action may be taken following Executive Session

At 8:10 PM, the following resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION#2007-161
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a public body to go into closed session during a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Union Township Committee has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempt from the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Union will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12: Personnel, Contract Negotiation and Potential Litigation.

Mrs. Dziubek made a motion to adopt the above resolution. Mrs. Nargi seconded. Vote – Ayes: Mr. Severino, Mrs. Nargi, Mrs. Dziubek, Mr. Mazza. Motion Carried.

At approximately 10:07 PM, Mr. Severino made a motion to return to the regular meeting, Mrs. Nargi seconded. Vote – Ayes: Mr. Severino, Mrs. Nargi, Mrs. Dziubek, Mr. Mazza. Motion Carried.

Mrs. Dziubek left the Executive Session meeting at 8:26, not to return.

The following action was taken after coming out of an Executive Session:

Mrs. Nargi made a motion to close Union Township Municipal offices on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2007. Mr. Severino seconded the motion. Vote – Ayes: Mr. Severino, Mrs. Nargi, Mr. Mazza. Motion Carried.

TAKEN OUT OF AGENDA ORDER

c. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Mazza mentioned the following:

- Mayor Mazza appointed Mr. Robert Badenhause as a member of the Planning Board, filling seat vacated by Mr. Lukasik
- Received a request from the owner of Bagelsmith to display Menorah and Christmas Tree in front of the deli. He would also like to give out free bagels and coffee. Mrs. Nargi stated that giving out food would make to much chaos at the corner where the Bagelsmith Shop is located.
On Attorney Jost's advice, it was agreed that no holiday displays be allowed on Township's property. No holiday decoration would be displayed either outside or inside Municipal Building.
- Census 2010 participation. Attorney Jost suggested looking into the issue. Mr. Severino volunteered to do so.

d. **Committee Report** -none

e. **Clerk's Report** - none

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS – no Claims Register prepared for this meeting

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Township Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Nargi, seconded by Mr. Severino. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ella Malecki Ruta, RMC
Municipal Clerk